

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An emulsion composition, comprising:

an optically isotropic surfactant phase comprising a nonionic surfactant (hereinafter the phase being referred to as the surfactant phase) in an amount of 10% or more by mass, and

an aqueous solution phase comprising an electrolytic salt (hereinafter the phase being referred to as the aqueous solution phase), the amount of the salt being such an amount that the aqueous solution phase is incompatible with the surfactant phase, wherein the water content is 20% or more by mass and the electrolytic salt content is from 4 to 32% by mass,

wherein the surfactant phase and the aqueous solution phase are stabilized with ~~a polymer~~ an emulsifier polymer comprising a segment (a) having affinity with the aqueous solution phase and a segment (b) having affinity with the surfactant phase (hereinafter the polymer being referred to the emulsifier polymer) wherein said emulsifier polymer is

(1) a copolymer of an ester of a polyalkylene glycol and a vinyl monomer having a carboxyl group or a salt thereof; and (meth)acrylic acid or a salt thereof, wherein the terminal of the alkyleneoxy group is a hydroxyl group or an alkyl group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms so as to be an ether bond;

(2) a copolymer of an ether of polyalkylene glycol having a reactive unsaturated group; and (meth)acrylic acid or a salt thereof; or

(3) a polymer wherein the segment (a) is a polymer chain comprising, in its constituting unit, a carboxyl group or a salt thereof, and the segment (b) thereof is a hydrocarbon group having 9 to 30 carbon atoms.

2. (Original) The emulsion composition according to claim 1, wherein the surfactant phase is present as droplets in the aqueous solution phase.

3. – 5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The emulsion composition according to claim 1 or 2, which further comprises a water-soluble organic solvent which comprises a hydroxyl group.

7. (Original) The emulsion composition according to claim 1, wherein the emulsifier polymer is a block polymer or a graft polymer.

8. (Original) The emulsion composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the segment (a) of the emulsifier polymer is a polymer chain comprising, in its constituting unit, a carboxyl group or a salt thereof, and the segment (b) thereof is a nonionic polymer chain.

9. (Currently Amended) The emulsion composition according to claim 7, wherein the emulsifier polymer is said copolymer (1) which is a copolymer of said segment (a) of an ester of a polyalkylene glycol and a vinyl monomer having a carboxyl group or a salt thereof, and said segment (b) of a vinyl monomer having a carboxyl group or a salt thereof.

10. (Original) The emulsion composition according to claim 7, wherein the emulsifier polymer is a copolymer of a polyalkylene glycol ether having a reactive unsaturated group and a vinyl monomer having a carboxyl group or a salt thereof.

11. (Original) The emulsion composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the segment (a) of the emulsifier polymer is a polymer chain comprising, in its constituting unit, a carboxyl group or a salt thereof, and the segment (b) thereof is a hydrocarbon group having 9 to 30 carbon atoms.

12. (Original) The emulsion composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the mass ratio of the segment (a) to the segment (b) is from 30:70 to 95:5.

13. (Original) The emulsion composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the electrolytic salt is a carbonate of an alkali metal.

14. (Original) The emulsion composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the nonionic surfactant has an HLB of 9 to 16.

15. (Original) The emulsion composition according to claim 1 or 2, which has a viscosity (at 25 °C) of 3000 mPa·s or less.

16. (Original) The emulsion composition according to claim 1 or 2, which is for a detergent.

17. (Currently Amended) A liquid detergent composition comprising the emulsion composition according to claim 1 and inorganic builder particles dispersed in the emulsion composition, wherein the mass ratio of the emulsifier polymer/the inorganic builder particles is from 1/80 to 1/4.

18. (Original) The liquid detergent composition according to claim 17, wherein the inorganic builder particles comprise an aluminosilicate compound.

19. (Original) The liquid detergent composition according to claim 17 or 18, which has a viscosity (at 25 °C) of 3000 mPa·s or less.

20. (Original) A process for producing the liquid detergent composition according to claim 17 or 18, comprising the step of mixing an emulsion composition comprising the emulsifier polymer, the electrolytic salt, the nonionic surfactant and water with inorganic builder particles.

21. (New) The emulsion composition according to claim 1, wherein the emulsifier polymer is a copolymer of

- (a) an ester of
 - (a1) a polyalkylene glycol and
 - (a2) (meth)acrylic acid; and
- (b) (meth)acrylic acid.